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HOUSE MEMORIAL 22

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007, "BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
YOUTH MENTORING DAY" AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, more boys and girls in New Mexico than ever
before grow up in circumstances that place them at severe risk
of dropping out of school, youth crime and violence, drug and
alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the big brothers big sisters mission is to bring
caring adults into the lives of young people in order to
prevent destructive behavior and instill positive values and
life skills; and

WHEREAS, science-based research has shown that a young
person who is matched with a big brother or big sister
volunteer is:

- A. forty-six percent less likely to start using

1 illegal drugs;

2 B. twenty-seven percent less likely to start
3 drinking;

4 C. fifty-two percent less likely to skip a day of
5 school;

6 D. thirty-seven percent less likely to skip a
7 class; and

8 E. less likely to engage in violence; and

9 WHEREAS, the positive impact of big brothers big sisters
10 has proved that one adult caring for one child is the most
11 powerful force to keep young people in school, off drugs and
12 alcohol and out of trouble with the law; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico's big brothers big sisters programs
14 and its school-based partners have grown twice as fast as the
15 national average, increasing the number of youth matched with
16 adults by nearly sixty percent to three thousand one hundred
17 big-little matches in the past year; and

18 WHEREAS, with waiting lists for all of its programs and a
19 torrent of requests from unserved counties in New Mexico, the
20 big brothers big sisters programs in New Mexico are committed
21 to bringing its life-changing program to all children in the
22 state, regardless of where they reside;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the invaluable
25 contributions of big brothers big sisters be recognized and

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1 that Tuesday, February 13, 2007, be declared "Big Brothers Big
2 Sisters Youth Mentoring Day" at the house of representatives.

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